

House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Amendment No. 1

Amendment No. 1 to HJR0572

Head
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Date _____
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Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND <SB>

House Joint Resolution No. 572*

By adding the following language after the seventh WHEREAS clause:

"WHEREAS, on March 21, 2002, Executive Order No. 31 lifted a seven-month moratorium on the State's issuance of permits to merchant electric generating plants (electric generating facilities of fifty (50) megawatts or larger that sell power to electric utilities for resale to retail customers); and

WHEREAS, prior to the moratorium, numerous merchant power companies had applied for state permits to build and operate electric generating plants in Tennessee due to our abundant natural resources, central location and proximity to natural gas and electric power lines; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of the moratorium, Executive Order No. 31 established a pilot project to allow the permitting of no more than four (4) new merchant electric generating plants in Tennessee between March 21, 2002 and January 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the pilot project requires merchant electric generating plants seeking a state permit to undergo a review by the Department of Economic and Community Development to assess the plant's potential economic and environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, after January 1, 2004, the Department of Economic and Community Development may continue to restrict the number of applications for merchant power plant permits that it will accept for review during each year; and

WHEREAS, while merchant electric generating plants may place additional demands on our natural resources, such facilities may also benefit economically the communities where they are located and may also play a significant role in meeting the energy needs of this State and Nation; and

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WHEREAS, this State's energy policy relative to the permitting of merchant electric generating plants is of great importance to all Tennesseans and should be carefully studied by this Body; and"

And further amend by adding the following resolving clause after the second resolving clause to read as follows:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall study the State's application, review and permit system for the siting of merchant electric generating plants and economic and environmental issues associated therewith."